agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The Plan had focussed on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

The approach to the tenth Plan focusses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of the 10th Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) The payment of unemployment allowance to all educated unemployed youths would divert substantial resources from developmental programmes to a non-developmental activity. The resources of such a magnitude should better be used for developmental activities, which would generate substantial productive employment. Therefore, the Government is not in favour of payment of unemployment allowance.

Welfare of beedi workers

974. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any scheme for welfare of beedi workers of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes launched in Gujarat; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) A number of sc'.emes are being run by the Labour Welfare Organisation of the Ministry of Labour in the fields of health, housing, education and recreation for the welfare of beedi workers, under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 throughout the country including Gujarat.